

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for suppressing one or more features in an image of a page of content, comprising:
 - (a) acquiring an image of a page of content;
 - (b) automatically analyzing the image to identify one or more features in the image of the page of content that are to be suppressed or not to be suppressed, wherein the analysis is performed by a computer process; and
 - (c) preparing a substitute image for display that includes one or more portions of the analyzed image having those features that are not to be suppressed.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, in which acquiring an image of a page of content comprises scanning a page of content into an electronic image format.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, in which acquiring an image of a page of content comprises converting electronic text into an electronic image format.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, in which acquiring an image of a page of content comprises retrieving an image of a page of content that was previously stored in a memory.
5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, in which analyzing the image to identify one or more features that are not to be suppressed includes determining location and size information for the features in the image that meet a non-suppression criterion.
6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5, in which the non-suppression criterion identifies text in the image.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, in which the non-suppression criterion identifies text that matches one or more specified terms.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 5, in which the non-suppression criterion identifies a non-text object.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, in which the non-text object has text associated therewith and the non-suppression criterion identifies the non-text object by reference to the object's associated text.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5, in which preparing a substitute image comprises generating a blank image and using the location and size information to copy to the blank image one or more portions of the analyzed image that include the non-suppressed features.

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 10, in which copying one or more portions of the analyzed image comprises copying pixel information for the non-suppressed features from the analyzed image to the substitute image at one or more locations corresponding to the locations of the non-suppressed features in the analyzed image.

12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising including background image information in the substitute image that simulates background information in the analyzed image.

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, in which background image information is included in the substitute image by duplicating pixel information from the background of the analyzed image to the background of the substitute image.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, in which background pixel information from one or more locations in the analyzed image is duplicated at corresponding locations in the substitute image and interpolated through the remainder of the substitute image to produce the background image information for the substitute image.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, in which preparing a substitute image comprises removing image information from the analyzed image that fails to correspond to the features that are not to be suppressed.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, in which preparing a substitute image comprises removing image information from the analyzed image that corresponds to the features that are to be suppressed.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, in which analyzing the image to identify one or more features that are to be suppressed includes determining location and size information for the features in the analyzed image that meet a suppression criterion.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, in which the suppression criterion identifies text in the analyzed image.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, in which the suppression criterion identifies text that does not match one or more specified terms.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 17, in which the suppression criterion identifies a non-text object.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, in which the non-text object has text associated therewith and the suppression criterion identifies the non-text object by reference to the object's associated text.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising including background image information in the substitute image by duplicating pixel information from the background of the analyzed image to the background of the substitute image.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising including background image information in the substitute image by differentiating foreground pixel information from background pixel information, and removing foreground pixel information from the substitute image that corresponds to the features to be suppressed.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing the substitute image in a database for later retrieval.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24, in which a stored substitute image, when retrieved, is subject to further feature suppression by (1) analyzing the image to identify one or more features in the image that are to be suppressed or not to be suppressed, and (2) preparing a substitute image that includes one or more portions of the analyzed image having those features that are not to be suppressed.

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising referring to an access rule that limits the content that can be included in the substitute image, and analyzing the image of the page of content to identify the one or more features in the analyzed image that can be included in the substitute image in accordance with the access rule.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, in which analyzing the image to identify the one or more features that can be included in the substitute image includes determining location and size information of the features.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, in which preparing a substitute image comprises generating a blank image and using the location and size information to copy pixel information for the features that can be included into the substitute image at the same locations as in the analyzed image.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, in which the access rule defines an aggregate amount of content that can be included in the substitute image.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, in which the access rule defines a percentage of content that can be included in the substitute image.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, in which the access rule defines an amount of content that can be included based on content-specific information.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, in which the access rule defines an amount of content that can be included based on content ownership.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, further comprising referring to different access rules based on a location of a user.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, further comprising referring to different access rules based on a time at which the substitute image is to be provided to a user.

35. (Previously presented) A computer system that provides an image of a page of content to a user as a result of a search, comprising a search server in communication with a database server, in which the database server is configured with a library of content that includes (1) an image database containing images of pages of content and (2) a text searchable database containing text and information identifying the images in the image database that contain the text, the search server being configured with computer-implemented instructions that enable the search server to retrieve an image of a page of content from the image database based on a user search, analyze the image to identify one or more features in the image that are to be suppressed or not to be suppressed, prepare a substitute image that includes one or more portions of the analyzed image having those features that are not to be suppressed, and provide the substitute image to the user.

36. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 35, further comprising an access rights database in the database server with an access rule that limits the content in the substitute image provided to the user.

37. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 35, in which the search server is further configured to determine location and size information for features in the analyzed image that are to be suppressed or not to be suppressed.

38. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 37, in which the search server prepares the substitute image by generating a blank image and using the location and size

information to copy to the blank image one or more portions of the analyzed image that include the non-suppressed features.

39. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 38, in which the search server copies one or more portions of the analyzed image by copying pixel information for the non-suppressed features from the analyzed image to the substitute image at one or more locations corresponding to the locations of the non-suppressed features in the analyzed image.

40. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 35, in which the search server prepares a substitute image by removing image information from the analyzed image that fails to correspond to the features that are not to be suppressed.

41. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 35, in which the search server prepares a substitute image by removing image information from the analyzed image that corresponds to the features that are to be suppressed.

42. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 35, in which the search server is further configured to include background image information in the substitute image that simulates background information in the analyzed image.

43. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 35, in which the search server is further configured to include background image information in the substitute image by differentiating foreground pixel information from background pixel information, and removing foreground pixel information from the substitute image that corresponds to the features to be suppressed.

44. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 35, in which the search server is further configured to store the substitute image in the image database for later retrieval.

45. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 44, in which the search server is further configured to act on a retrieved substitute image as an image of a page of content subject to further feature suppression.

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